PRESIDENT: In order that the position may be clarified, the policy of the Government may be indicated. Henceforth all the mineral sands in Travancore shall be regarded as the property of the Government and no concern or venture will have any proprietary rights in any of the sands in Travancore. The question of the utilisation of those sands either by using them in a manufactory here or by exporting them to countries which need exportation for particular purposes is a matter which is under discussion with the representatives of those concerns which were till now conducting business in those lines.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Karunagapally cum Kartikapalli*): Will this House be consulted before a final decision is taken?

PRESIDENT: If it is considered necessary. Yes.

Age of retirement of the officers.

530. * **MR. P. O. THOMAS**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was any correspondence of late between this Government and the Government of India as to age of retirement of the officers of this State; and

(*b*) if so what the gist of that correspondence is?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Construction of the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway line.

531. * **MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH** (*Minachil cum Thodupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state why the construction of the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway line which was surveyed at a cost of about Rs. 1¾ crores has not been taken up?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: The proposal for the construction of the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway was given up on account of the technical difficulties in the construction and the heavy cost involved which was found to be disproportionate to the utility of a metre-gauge railway from Quilon to Ernakulam. The attention of the member is invited to the fact that the cost of the survey was only Rs. 1·46 lakhs and not Rs. 1¾ crores as stated in the question. The attention of the member is also invited to the Dewan's statement of Government policy regarding the construction of Railways, made in the last Budget Session of the Assembly.

Document Writers' Licences.

532. * **MR. P. O. THOMAS**: Will the Government be pleased to place on the table:

(*a*) the copy of the rules relating to the document writers' licences;

(*b*) the copy of the letter addressed by the Government to the Bar Council about that matter; and

(*c*) the copy of the letter sent by the Bar Council to the Government about that matter?

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MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*) : (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The required papers are laid on the table.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : May I know from the member whether the letter from the Bar Council was considered by the Government when the rules relating to the Document Writers' Licences were framed ?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI : The whole question is under consideration. The rules were published only for public criticism and all those criticisms will be taken into consideration before the rules are finally passed. Now they are not finally passed.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : That is not my question. My question is whether the Government received the letter from the Bar Council before the draft rules were framed and whether that letter was considered by the Government.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI : No.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : May I know whether Government received that letter before the rules were published.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI : No.

Document Writers' Licences.

533. *MR. P. O. THOMAS : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Government sent the draft rules relating to the document writers' licences to the Travancore Bar Council ;

(*b*) whether the Government received any reply from that body ;

(*c*) if so what that reply was ; and

(*d*) whether the Government respected the views of the Travancore Bar Council with respect to this matter ?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Member is referred to the answer to (*c*) to question No. 532.

(*d*) The views of the Travancore Bar Council are being considered along with the suggestions received from the public.

State Transport Department.

534. * MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil cum Nedumangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether revision of salaries was sanctioned for the running and mechanical staff of the State Transport Department for the year 1121 ;

(*b*) the date of nomination to the new scale by the department ; and

(*c*) the date of sanction of the new scale to the staff ?

MR. N. RAMAMURTHI (*Director of Transport*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 1-1-1121.

(*c*) 2-2-1121.

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